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WARDLEIGH

YANKEE FORK RIVER COMPOSITE

Yankee Fork District

Challis National Forest

Idaho

Recommended for Approval:

Forest Supervisor

Date

Approved:

Regional Forester

Date

Recommended for Approval:

Regional Director

Date

Approved:

Director, Heritage
Conservation and
Recreation Service

Date

Prepared by
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Staff Specialist

A. DESCRIPTION

1. Location

The Yankee Fork River Composite includes the Yankee Fork drainage and its tributaries. It is located within the Challis National Forest, Custer County, Idaho. The center of the composite is in T12N, R15E, Boise Meridian (unsurveyed). It is 95 air-line miles northeast of Boise, the State capitol.

The major tributaries are Rankin, Sawmill, West Fork Yankee Fork, Lightning, Jordon, Eightmile, Tenmile, Twelvemile, McKay, Elevenmile, Fivemile, Fourth of July and Ramey Creeks.

2. Access

Road access from major cities in Idaho are as follows:

a. Boise (to the west), travel State Highways 21 and 75, a distance of 144 miles.

b. Twin Falls (to the south), travel U.S. #93 and State Highway 75 for 150 miles.

c. Idaho Falls (to the southeast), travel U.S. #20, U.S. #93 and State Highway 75, a distance of 187 miles.

The nearest airport is 13 miles westerly at Stanley, Idaho and is on private lands, and is closed to the public at this time. The nearest municipal airport is in Challis which is 45 road miles northeast of the Composite.

There is no public transportation such as bus or train serving the area. The nearest train depot is in Mackay, 96 miles southeast. The nearest bus service is in Challis, which is 45 miles.

Access within the composite is via Forest Service roads and trails. These are shown on the maps in the Appendix.

3. Physical Characteristics

a. Ecological and Geologic

Vegetation - Several vegetative habitat types are found in the Yankee Fork drainage, due mostly to the two distinctly different aspects of the canyon and the elevational differences from canyon bottom to mountain peak. The Douglas fir/Idaho Fescue and Blue Bunch Wheatgrass habitats dominate the midslopes. Alpine fir is found at the higher elevations associated with Dwarf Huckleberry. Lodgepole pine/Idaho Fescue dominates the valley floors where cold air accumulations prevent successful climax of Douglas fir. Willows mountain alder and other native shrubs are scattered along the stream edges. Aspen clones add variation to the slopes on both sides of the canyon.

Wildlife - The area is a natural habitat for deer, elk and smaller mammals such as the Columbian ground squirrel, the golden mantle ground squirrel, the chipmunk, the snowshoe hare, and the wood rat. In addition to the Franklin grouse and the kingfisher, there are numerous other smaller birds that inhabit the area.

One of the major attractions of the area is the fishery source. Perhaps the outstanding feature is the extensive spawning runs of the chinook salmon. The Yankee Fork of the Salmon River is a major spawning ground for the salmon, which swims over 900 miles from the Pacific Ocean to spawn and then dies in these waters. Native game fish consist of cutthroat trout, and mountain whitefish. Fishing is easily accessible and of a good quality.

Soils and Topography - The soils are generally of Challis volcanic origin and fairly stable. Granitic intrusions, sedimentary limestone deposits, and alluvial deposits also occur. The geologic forces that formed the Yankee Fork area were also responsible for the mineral deposits. The elevation varies from 6000 feet at the mouth of the Yankee Fork to 9500 feet at the headwater. Topography ranges from steep, narrow canyons to gently rolling hills.

Climate - Temperatures can range from -30° to -40° F. during the coldest periods of winter to over 90° F. during the hottest period of summer. Most of the precipitation comes in the form of winter snows that often pile up to rooftop height. The summer temperatures are pleasant, with warm dry days and cool nights.

Water - The Yankee Fork of the Salmon is clear and cold. In addition, there are several small springs and streams in the immediate area. The Yankee Fork is but one of the many mountain watersheds which annually convert large amounts of rain and snow into streamflow.

b. Scenic and Wild

The Composite contains a variety of scenes, from distinctive and unique to common; from wild to highly developed. Crimson and Hindman Lakes are within the recently designated River of No Return Wilderness. Approximately six miles of stream bottom were dredged between 1939 and 1952, all on patented mining claims. Also there are about ten summer homes on the private lands.

The visual resources in the composite were inventoried under the guidelines contained in the National Forest Landscape Management Volume 2. This process involves an inventory of the resource by variety class and sensitivity level to produce the visual quality objectives. This in turn is used in land use planning, functional plans, project plans, administration, and others.

Variety classes are obtained by classifying the landscape into three different degrees of variety. This determines those landscapes which are most important to those of less value from the standpoint of scenic quality.

Class A - Distinctive
Class B - Common
Class C - Minimal

Sensitivity Levels are a measure of people's concern for the scenic quality.

Level 1 - Highest
Level 2 - Average
Level 3 - Lowest

These sensitivity levels are mapped and further refined by foreground, middleground, and background for each level.

From these inventories, the visual quality objectives are formulated and mapped. The Visual Quality Objectives map is Appendix 8.

A definition of the symbols used on the map follows:

P - Preservation: Allows ecological changes only. Management activities are prohibited.

R - Retention: Allows management activities which are not visually evident. May only repeat form line, color and texture. Changes should not be evident.

PR - Partial Retention: Allows activities which remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape. Reduction in contrast as soon as possible - one year.

M - Modification: Allows activities that may visually dominate the original characteristic landscape; however, they must borrow from naturally established form, line, color, or texture so as to look natural and/or compatible. Reduction of contrast to be done in the first year.

MM - Maximum Modification: Allows activities that may dominate the landscape. Reduction in contrast should be accomplished within five years. (None in the composite.)

Comment - The majority of the land to be purchased is classified retention or partial retention visual quality objective.

c. Historic/Archeologic

1. The townsite of Custer, which has been nominated for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, for a number of years, has finally reached the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. It is expected that the Advisory Council will approve the nomination within the next 2-3 months.

2. The townsite of Bonanza has recently been nominated for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. This nomination is currently being reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. This nomination probably includes Bonanza and Boothill Cemeteries, but since we did not file the request and do not have a copy of the nomination, we can only assume what is included.

3. Dr. Merle Wells, State Historic Preservation Officer, has expressed a desire to nominate the Yankee Fork as a National Register of Historical Places District. This District would/should include the following significant historic sites:

- a. Sunbeam Dam
- b. Bonanza, Bonanza and Boothill Cemeteries
- c. The Yankee Fork Dredge
- d. Four principal historic mines in the area:

These mines probably include the Charles Dickens, General Custer, Lucky Boy and the Montana.

4. Another National Register of Historic Places District proposed by Dr. Wells, includes the Bonanza-Challis Toll Road. Included within this District would/should be the road itself, Toll Gate Station, Fanny's Lower Hole (Greenwood Station), Fanny's Upper Hole and Elevenmile Station.

5. The Bonanza Civilian Conservation Corps Camp at Bonanza has been identified as being significant by the Forest Service.

6. To date, only four prehistoric sites have been identified within the Yankee Fork drainage. All four sites should be considered eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places for two reasons:

- a. Most prehistoric sites have probably been destroyed by subsequent mining related activities, thus rendering any remaining site very important to understanding the prehistoric use of the area, and,

- b. None of the sites have been tested or excavated, so the Forest Service will assure protection of these sites until evaluation is or can be determined.

d. Recreation Attributes and Needs:

The south end of the Composite abuts the Sawtooth National Recreation Area near Sunbeam, and the north borders the River of No Return Wilderness. The Yankee Fork will become one of the major entrances to this Wilderness. The first three miles of the access road (FS 40013) is double lane and paved. The next nine miles are also double laned and will be paved as funds become available.

There are eight developed campgrounds within the Composite. The Custer Museum and Information Center as well as a Forest Service owned gold dredge are also within the Composite.

Present recreation activities include camping (developed and dispersed), picnicking, sightseeing, visiting the museum, fishing, hunting big game such as deer, elk, and mountain goat, hiking, horse-back riding, cross country skiing, snowmobiling and recreational suction dredging. There are approximately ten summer homes on private land within the area.

Activities other than recreational include mining (gold and silver), logging and cattle grazing.

It is expected that recreation activities will not change much in the next decade or two. But the use will increase sharply due to (1) increase in population in the county due to several large mining operations, (2) visits to the River of No Return Wilderness increases, and (3) as sites in the Sawtooth N.R.A. become over-crowded.

Item (1) above will have the single, most important effect on the area within the Composite and will be discussed in greater detail to emphasize the importance.

Custer County is a sparsely populated area, with a 1970 census population of 2,967 persons. The latest population estimates developed by the Idaho Bureau of Vital Statistics, indicate a July 1, 1978 population for the county of 3,400 persons, a gain of 14.6% over the 1970 figure. (The 1980 census figures will not be available for several months.)

Population in the cities of Challis and Mackay have grown at a faster rate than Custer County. Population in the City of Challis increased from 784 persons in 1970 to an estimated 1,009 in July 1, 1978, a gain of 28.7%. Mackay, the other population center in Custer County, had a July 1, 1978 estimate of 670 persons, an increase of 24.3% over the 1970 census population of 539.

The State of Idaho has developed population projections to the year 2,000 for Custer County. Those projections are based upon the Idaho Population and Employment Forecast model, which was developed by the Idaho Department of Water Resources and Boise State University Center for Research, Grants and Contracts.

Using this model, the Custer County population is expected to increase to 4,025 in 1985; 4,203 in 1990; 4,420 in 1995, and 4,581 in 2,000. This projected growth would represent an increase of 1,181 persons in the year 2,000 over the 1978 figure, or a gain of 34.7%. Population projections for the cities of Challis and Mackay are not available.

Quoting from the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Thompson Creek Molybdenum Project (1980), which is only one of several mining proposals in Custer and Lemhi Counties, we will experience a rapid increase in population.

Estimates for the new non-local population were developed based on the relationship between average non-local work force throughout the year, and the population to employment ratio. The analysis indicates the total population from the non-local primary and secondary work force will increase from an annual average of 112 in 1980 to 1,475 in 1983.

The State of Idaho projections show population in Custer County increasing from 3,742 in 1980 to 3,912 in 1983, an increase of 4.5%. With addition of the primary and secondary non-local work force, population in Custer County is expected to increase to 5,387 in 1983.

The population effects in the City of Challis include a growth in population of about 11.2% during 1980. Population projections for Challis are not available at this time. However, based on the latest estimates for the city (1,009 in 1978), the 1983 population with the project would result in a gain of about 145% over the latest data, assuming the new population settles in Challis.

B. SPECIAL OR SIGNIFICANT RECREATION RESOURCES, FEATURES OR OPPORTUNITIES WHICH MAKE THE COMPOSITE PRIMARILY OF VALUE FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION.

The Composite is rich in historical values such as the mining ghost towns of Custer and Bonanza; the old Custer Mill Site, the remains of the Lucky Boy Mine and many others. The majority of these attractions are on patented mining claims and are subject to demolition or other means of destroying their historical values.

In July 1966, the Forest purchased the Custer Museum and artifacts from Arthur "Tuff" McGown. We have operated and improved the museum since.

Then in 1967, the J.R. Simplot Co. donated a gold dredge to the Forest to be used in our interpretation of the mining activity in the area. This dredge is reputed to have been the largest gold dredge that ever operated in the State of Idaho. It took the Forest many years to obtain clear title to the lands under the dredge. Funds have not been available; therefore, it has yet to be opened to the public.

Private lands or interests in lands or structures will be purchased from willing sellers as the opportunity arises. Exchanges of land for land will also be an alternative to acquiring these parcels.

Acquisition of these lands will:

1. Provide unrestricted public access to an additional eleven miles of stream banks.
2. Prevent development inconsistent and non-conforming with the scenic settings, such as summer homes, cafes, etc.
3. Prevent pollution of a valuable spawning stream for salmon and steelhead. Steelhead runs are being re-established by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.
4. Provide some very suitable land for development of campgrounds and picnic sites.
5. Eliminate many miles of interior property lines.
6. Provide unrestricted public access to some prime big game hunting areas.
7. Add additional range for livestock grazing, and also make management of the range less complicated.
8. Prevent the loss of the historical resources, thus preserving them for future generations.
9. Allow a more complete interpretive program to be developed.
10. Eliminate the need for road and trail rights-of-way. Five separate cases.

The Yankee Fork Recreation Management Composite Plan, approved 5/24/78, speaks in general terms to the recreation opportunities.

The Yankee Fork Composite is located in Central Idaho, a land of rugged mountain terrain and varied recreational opportunities. Other recreation attractions adjacent to the Yankee Fork include the Sawtooth N.R.A., Salmon River, Middle Fork, and Sun Valley.

South of the Yankee Fork is the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, which was created in 1972. In 1976, 1,211,508 visitors traveled to the Sawtooth area to view the scenery and take advantage of the many recreational opportunities available. Many of the visitors to the Yankee Fork are on the way to, or coming from, the Sawtooth Mountain area.

Until recently, the salmon fishing on the main Salmon River lured hundreds of fishermen to the area for the annual spring run of Chinook salmon. The Yankee Fork of the Salmon River is also an important salmon spawning ground, but has been closed to fishing in recent years. Many of the fishermen and their families visited the attractions on the Yankee Fork when not pursuing the salmon. For the last three years, the season on the main Salmon River has been closed due to low numbers of fish.

West of the Yankee Fork lies a large undeveloped area which encompasses the Middle Fork of the Salmon River and the Idaho Primitive Area. These attractions draw people to Central Idaho and add to the number of people who visit the Yankee Fork.

The Sun Valley-Ketchum area, located about 50 miles south of the Yankee Fork, has for years been a popular winter resort. In recent years, this area has grown as a year 'round resort and attracted many visitors during the summer season. The Yankee Fork has become a regular stop for the many summer visitors at Sun Valley-Ketchum.

Recreation use of the Yankee Fork has always been popular, the settlers of Bonanza and Custer took advantage of the many opportunities.

It wasn't until improved roads opened up the country that recreation use began to grow. The first improved roads were built by the CCC enrollees from their camp at Bonanza. The Custer Toll Road was improved and made more passable to car traffic. This opened up the Yankee Fork area for recreation use by residents of Challis.

In 1955, U.S. Highway 93 (now State #75) paving project was started. The project was completed in 1958, resulting in a paved road from Challis to Ketchum, and opened the area to additional tourists.

Highway 21, from Lowman to Stanley was completed in 1964, providing a good highway to the area from the major population center of the State.

Immediate access to the Yankee Fork was improved in 1967, when the lower portion of the Yankee Fork road was improved and paved. Further improvement was accomplished in 1973, when the present Yankee Fork road was constructed.

Recreation use in the area has increased significantly since the 1950's. Increased leisure time, improved access, designation of adjacent S.N.R.A. and rapidly spreading news concerning outstanding recreational potential offered by the area undoubtedly accounts for most of the increase in use. Recent figures show a leveling off of use, probably brought about by higher fuel costs and lack of salmon fishing.

Major recreation use of the area includes big game hunting, auto touring, camping, trout fishing, and visiting the many historical sites.

Approximately 80% of the Composite is undeveloped and provides many areas for dispersed recreation. Numerous small lakes are found in the high alpine areas, along the top of the watershed. Many species of trout are found in the lakes and the fishing is usually good. Dispersed type camping is a popular attraction of the upper Yankee Fork.

Big game hunters are drawn to the area by the elk herds found in the undeveloped country in the Yankee Fork.

Eight developed campgrounds with a capacity of 234 PAOT provide camping spots for the visitors. These campgrounds range from intermediate to primitive development.

Historic sites are an important element in the Yankee Fork. The museum at Custer has approximately 14,000 visitors each year. (There were 17,000 visits in 1980). Many of these people visit the other historic sites at Bonanza and along the toll road.

The Yankee Fork Composite contains all or portions of four inventoried roadless areas. These roadless areas do contain many of the characteristics of wilderness and their present use does not detract from possible designation. The study of these areas as to whether they should be looked at for wilderness designation will be done during the land use planning process.

The Yankee Fork drainage has many beautiful scenes and would be rated high for esthetic appeal. Auto touring along the major roads is a popular attraction and the primary purpose for visiting the area other than visiting the museum. A drive along the old toll road from Custer to Challis is a popular attraction for local people as well as the traveling public.

Nearly half of the visitors to the Yankee Fork are from Idaho. The southeast portion of Idaho is a fast growing area with the potential of providing many visitors to the area.

Private land is dotted throughout the Composite. In all cases, this land is patented mining and millsite claims. The largest holdings along the Yankee Fork are owned by J.R. Simplot, and, for the most part, were dredged in the 1940's. The dredge camp area is now used as summer homes. Another summer home area is located at the mouth of the West Fork on patented mining claims. These homesites are hidden in the trees and the normal visitor to the Yankee Fork is unaware of their presence.

Private land and unpatented mining claims do present a problem in several areas. At Bonanza, an unpatented mining claim covers nearly all the old townsite and most of the remaining buildings are owned and used by the claimants.

At Custer, an unpatented mining claim occupies the upper end of the town. The claimant owns many of the buildings and operates a small mining operation near the old mill. Also, an active placer claim is located across the Yankee Fork from Custer, along with one or two inactive claims.

Other activities include exploration work at Estes Mountain, Sunbeam, Lucky Boy, and on the Charles Dickens mine area above Custer.

The Yankee Fork contains withdrawals from mineral entry for each developed campground, and for the historic site at Custer.

A withdrawal is proposed for the Bonanza areas, but is still in process.

The Regional Plan, the National Forest Land Management Plan, or the Forest Recreation Management Plan have not been prepared at this time. In the interim period between composite approval and development of the management plan, the composite area will be managed with full coordination of recreation values. When approved, the management plan will direct management of the composite area subject to public review and comments as required by law.

Non-recreation uses occurring in the Composite are mining, cattle grazing, and very limited timber harvesting. Mining adversely affects recreation, but at the same time, produced the rich historical value many recreationists come to the Yankee Fork to see. A brief history of mining in the area is needed to present a complete picture of the Composite.

Joel Richardson and a party of "Yankee" prospectors came to the mouth of a large tributary of the upper Salmon River in 1866 or 1867. They found little prospects for placer, but named the creek the "Yankee Fork" after themselves. After the discovery of promising placers in Jordon Creek in 1870, the Yankee Fork Mining District was formed.

Bonanza was the first mining camp. It was laid out in 1877 and in 1881, had a peak population of 600 people. The town of Custer was founded in 1879. It is two miles upstream from Bonanza and had a peak population of 600 in 1896.

The Lucky Boy Mine and the General Custer Mill closed in 1904. The Sunbeam Mine closed in 1911. Ore was becoming low grade and too costly to mine starting in 1903.

The Yankee Fork remained quiet with very little prospecting until the mid 1930's. In 1934, the Government increased the price of gold from \$20.67 to \$35.00 an ounce. In 1937 and 1938, the Yankee Fork was tested for dredging. An estimated \$11,000,000 in gold could be taken from the streambed. All parts of the dredge were trucked in and assembled at the site. The dredge operated from 1939 to 1942 when the Government ordered the operation closed due to the war. Work resumed in 1945 and stopped in 1952, when nearly all the patented land had been dredged.

Now with gold the price it is, mining in the area is again active. Many of the old claims are being reworked. New claims are being filed. New roads and old roads are being built or rebuilt. How long this will last is impossible to say. The mines closed in the early 1910's because of low grade ore and high production costs. The majority of people in the area think this activity will be short lived and history will be repeated.

C. RECREATION NEEDS TO BE MET BY THE COMPOSITE

Fiscal Year 1980 was the first year that we programed the recreation information management (R.I.M.) system to compile all the uses in the Yankee Fork Composite. Therefore, we can not compare the past five years to provide a trend analysis that is accurate. I have; however, assumed that the percent of use in the composite, as compared to the District as a whole, remained about constant - 30% of the District's use. I have also assumed that the use by activity is constant over the last five years.

Table 1

Recreation Use by Kind of Site or Area
F.Y. 1980

<u>Kind of Site or Area</u>	<u>Visitor Day Use</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Campground	5,300	24.9
Recreation Residence	200	.9
Interpretive Site	3,100	14.5
Roads	1,300	6.1
Trails	2,700	12.7
Lakes & Ponds	300	1.4
Rivers & Streams	3,100	14.6
General Undeveloped Area	<u>5,300</u>	<u>24.9</u>
Total	21,300	100.0

Table 2

Recreation Use by Activity
F.Y. 1981

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Visitor Days Use</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Motorcycle Travel	800	3.8
Ice & Snow Craft	200	.9
Hiking	1,700	8.0
Bicycle	100	.5
Horseback	500	2.3
Swimming & Water Play	200	.9
Fishing - Coldwater	3,000	14.1
Camping - General	600	2.8
Camping - Auto	2,800	13.1
Camping - Trailer	2,700	12.7
Camping - Tent	1,500	7.0
Picnicking	100	.5
Recreation Cabin Use	200	.9
Ice Skating	100	.5
Cross-country Skiing	100	.5
Hunting - All	1,300	6.2
Nature Study	900	4.2
Gathering Forest Products	300	1.4
Viewing Interpretive Exhibits	900	4.2
Attending Talks & Programs	900	4.2
Touring - Guided	300	1.4
Touring - Unguided	800	3.8
Walking - Guided	1,000	4.7
Walking - Unguided	100	.5
Viewing Interpretive Signs	100	.5
General Information	100	.5
Total	21,300	100.0

Table 3

<u>Recreation Visits and Capacity</u>			
FY	Visitor Day <u>1/</u>	PAOT <u>2/</u> Developed Sites	Theoretic Season Capacity <u>3/</u>
1980	21,300	335	49,680
1979	23,600	335	49,680
1978	36,600 <u>4/</u>	335	49,680
1977	41,800 <u>4/</u>	335	49,680
1976	38,500 <u>4/</u>	335	49,680
<u>Projections to 1990</u>			
1) With Acquisition	70,000	550	96,800
2) Without Acquisition	50,000	400	70,000

1/ Includes dispersed use.

2/ PAOT = People at one time. There is no way to assign PAOT's to the dispersed area. Includes Custer and the dredge interpretive sites.

3/ Theoretical Season Capacity of developed overnite sites = PAOT X season in days X 2. For day use sites = PAOT X season in days.

4/ Use from 1978 and prior were erroneously calculated and are unreliable.

The projected increase is based on the following: *assumptions*

1. Increase in population in Custer County due to several new mines beginning operation. One company estimated their operation alone will triple the population in three years. Similar increases are expected from the other mines in the area.

2. Salmon fishing will again open and remain open. This in itself doubles the use in existing campgrounds and in the dispersed areas.

3. Recreationalists are taking fewer and closer to home vacations. They are staying longer. In other words, instead of staying one night in the Yankee Fork then driving to Glacier National Park and then on to some other place, they will stay their entire vacation at a location closer to home.

4. Normal population increase. The SCORP report figures the State population will increase 73% between 1975 and 2000.

Use in developed sites amounts to 40% of the use in the composite. Camping and picnicking account for 36.1% of the use by activity. This is followed by interpretive type activities for 19.8%. This indicates that the Yankee Fork is a destination type vacation area. Camping also occurs within the dispersed areas.

These tables also indicate that the developed sites are used at 43% of their theoretical capacity. This indicates, and is proven by the sites themselves, that resource damage is occurring because of over use.

In the near future there are sufficient, suitable Forest Service lands to accommodate the necessary additional campgrounds. However, many of the most desirable tracts, near the streams, are in private ownership. These should be acquired when they are offered for sale. Also, fishing access would be assured as stated earlier.

The Sawtooth National Recreation Area lies to the south of the composite. Their campgrounds received an average of about 30% of their theoretical capacity. However, we have not had a salmon season for the last few years. When we do have a salmon season, use averages between 70 and 80% of the theoretical capacity. This also occurs in the lower three campgrounds along the Yankee Fork.

The composite is in Region VI - Lost Rivers - of the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 1978. The following data was obtained from that plan and is condensed here.

Table 4

Development Needs - Lost Rivers Region
SCORP

<u>Development</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Additional Needs</u>	<u>F.S. Share %</u>	<u>F.S. Share</u>
Campgrounds	sites	988	52	514 sites
Picnicking	tables	1,067	40	427 tables
Nordic Skiing	miles	73	55	40 miles
Swimming (Beach)	linear feet	308	7	22 feet

The composite can provide some of the campsites, picnic tables, and miles of nordic skiing trails, but no swimming beaches.

Table 5

Land Acquisition Requirements
SCORP

<u>Development</u>	<u>Acres Needed</u>	<u>F.S. Share %</u>	<u>F.S. Share</u>
Campground (4 sites/ac.)	74	52	38 ac.
Picnicking (6 tables/ac.)	62	40	25 ac.

Not all of the above acres need to be purchased. The developments could be accommodated on National Forest System lands when funding is allocated. However, as mentioned earlier, some of the most desirable sites, especially for picnicking, are on private lands within the composite.

There are no regional or county recreation plans prepared other than SCORP. The county is not zoned.

Table 6
Populations Near the Composite

Airline Miles	Population (Incremental)		Key Communities	Driving Time
	Present (1970)	In 10 yrs. (1990)		
0-25 miles	200	400	Stanley Clayton	20 minutes 25 minutes
26-50 miles	6,000	12,000	Challis	1 hour
51-100 miles	180,000	270,000	Boise Sun Valley Salmon	3 hours 2 hours 3 hours
101-150 miles	246,700	370,000	Caldwell Grangeville Idaho Falls	3.5 hours 6.5 hours 3.5 hours
Total 0-150 miles	432,900	652,400	--	--

State Population

1970 Census	721,519
1975 SCORP	814,447
2000 Projection from SCORP	1,411,128

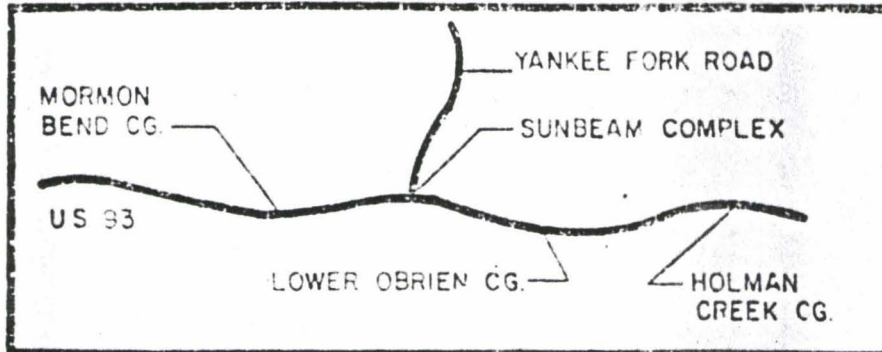
Note: 1980 Census is not available.

VISITOR ORIGIN

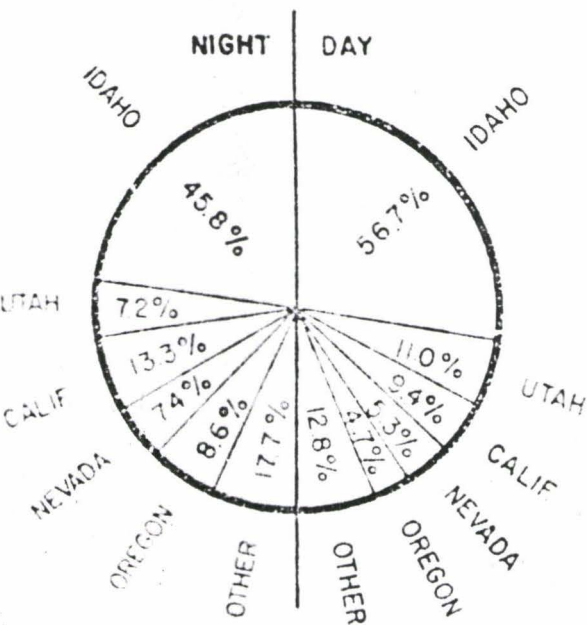
CAMPGROUND USE—
VICINITY OF SUNBEAM COMPLEX

RIM DATA

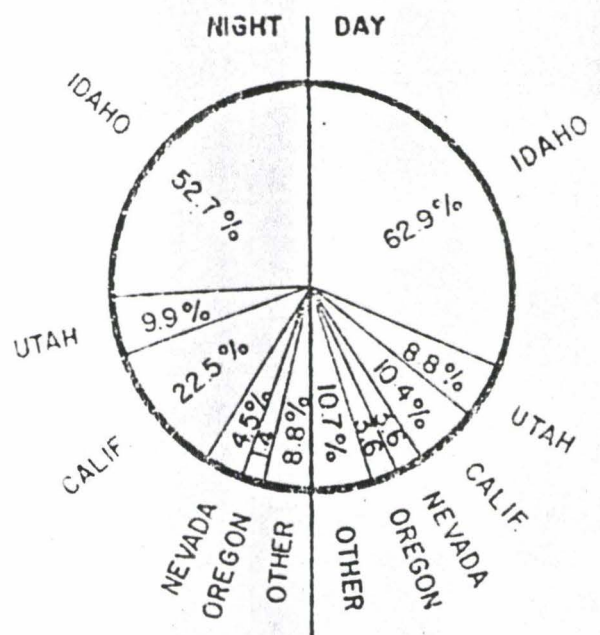
LOCATION MAP



WEEK DAY



WEEK END/HOLIDAY



Visitor origin was obtained from the Yankee Fork Recreation Composite Plan. It is fairly close to data contained in SCORP. However, SCORP separates use by activity and residents and non-residents. This data is presented in Table 8.

Table 8
RESIDENT AND NON-RESIDENT
TRIP PRODUCTIONS TO
1980

VI. LOST RIVERS REGION

Activity	Destination Trips (in 100's)				Origin Trips (in 100's)		
	Idaho Residents		Non-Residents - %	Total Trips	Origin trips within Co.	Trips leaving Co. - %	Trips staying in Co. - %
	County*1 - %	State*2 - %					
Camping	539 - 4%	6377 - 41%	8500 - 55%	15416	8501	7962 - 9%	539 - 6%
Picnicking	4386 - 37%	4453 - 38%	2902 - 25%	11741	8344	3958 - 47%	4386 - 53%
Sightseeing	9900 - 23%	17012 - 39%	16473 - 38%	43385	29178	19278 - 66%	9900 - 34%
Fishing	6004 - 47%	4541 - 35%	2250 - 18%	12795	10366	4362 - 42%	6004 - 58%
Boating	3590 - 43%	2647 - 31%	2171 - 26%	8408	6290	2700 - 43%	3590 - 57%
Waterskiing	1638 - 45%	1505 - 42%	454 - 13%	3597	3203	1565 - 49%	1638 - 51%
Walking/hiking	31243 - 43%	38074 - 52%	3524 - 5%	72841	67477	36234 - 54%	31243 - 46%
Hunting	2431 - 35%	3014 - 44%	1439 - 21%	6914	6591	4160 - 63%	2431 - 37%
Snow Activities	5296 - 29%	10980 - 60%	2086 - 11%	18362	19078	13782 - 72%	5296 - 28%

*1 Percent of origins and destinations occurring within the county by county residents.

*2 Percent of state residents leaving their own county, but remaining in Idaho.

Table 9

Summary of Land Ownership and Acquisition in the Composite Area.

Gross Acreage	117,000
Total Private	1,285
Total Non-Federal Public and Quasi-public	0
Total FS Ownership	115,717
Other Federal	0
Total Land Proposed for LWCF Funding	1,273

Estimated Acquisition Cost \$1,500,000 (1981 dollars)

A complete listing of private lands is shown in Appendix 7.

D. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT

The lands within the composite have been managed in the past to emphasize recreation. This will continue. We have attempted to preserve and interpret the rich historical aspects of the area. As funds become available we will continue to develop the area as prescribed in the Yankee Fork Recreation Management Composite Plan, 5/24/78.

A listing of other past planning efforts is shown below. Copies of these plans are located at the Yankee Fork Ranger District Office.

1. Yankee Fork Development Plan 1966
2. Custer Townsite Management Plan 1966
3. Feasibility Study, Custer Visitor Center 1970
4. The Yankee Fork, A Recreation Concept Plan 1971
5. Bonanza Concept Plan 1972
6. Dredge Parking Alternatives 1973
7. Jordan Creek to Custer - Road Alternatives 1973
8. Yankee Fork Interpretive Inventory 1973
9. The Yankee Fork Concept Plan 1975

E. ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Lands acquired can be used to accommodate the following activities:

1. Camping - developed and dispersed.
2. Picnicking - developed and dispersed.
3. Interpretive services.
4. Fishing.
5. Hunting.
6. Cross country skiing.
7. Hiking.
8. Motorcycle travel.
9. Snowmachine travel.

10. Horseback riding.

11. Sightseeing.

F. ALTERNATIVES TO PROVIDE FOR THE RECREATION NEEDS OF THE AREA

1. No action by any agency.

This could lead to subdivision of suitable lands and "no trespassing" signs everywhere. Presently, the J.R. Simplot Company does not restrict public access to the majority of their lands but, should they decide to sell, this could change suddenly.

Some of the other private lands are posted and restrict public access to many acres of big game hunting lands in public (FS) ownership. These could also be sold and/or subdivided for summer homes.

2. Improved utilization of Forest Service owned lands.

This is being done as funds become available for development. However, eleven miles of stream banks are in private hands and could become off limits to the public. Also, some of the most desirable lands for development are privately owned.

We have experienced much mining activity in the area since gold prices jumped to over \$600 an ounce. Some public land can and will become patented in the future. As an example, a suitable campsite on the Forest has been staked and developed as a mill site. They will be in production this year. This venture eliminated twenty acres from public use.

3. Improve maintenance and operation of our existing facilities.

This is being done on a continuing basis but our sites are situated in such a way that they can not be expanded to accommodate more people at one time. This year we are imposing a ten day length of stay within developed sites policy on the Forest, and sixteen days on the general undeveloped areas.

4. Acquisition and/or development by other governmental agencies.

This will probably never occur because all lands other than private are National Forest System lands. The county would not be a likely developer for public recreation, as they do not have a recreation program or funds. It is very unlikely that the State of Idaho would be interested in these lands.

5. Acquisition by easements, donations, exchanges, or other.

We have acquired two small partials, near and under the dredge by donation. We have exchanged five acres next to several summer homes on private lands to clear up a trespass case. In return we obtained five acres between Jordan Creek and Custer townsite.

We will take every advantage to exchange lands outside the composite in order to obtain lands within. Also, we will not turn down any donations. No offers have been made recently and none are still pending.

Scenic easements could be beneficial but authority would have to be obtained.)

(Purchasing interests in improvements such as historical buildings on unpatented mining claims is possible. We have such an offer pending. The claim would then have to be withdrawn from mineral entry to protect our investments.

6. Zoning.

The county is not zoned at this time and it is unlikely to occur in the area since it is mineralized. Withdrawing the entire composite from mineral entry is not feasible under today's policies.

Summary:

The six alternatives mentioned above all have adverse effects and will permit degradation of the aesthetics and limit some recreational activities. Therefore, I recommend this plan be approved.

Authorities:

Existing authorities that could be used to acquire lands within the composite.

- Weeks Act of March 1, 1911 (36 Stat. 961, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 515-517, 521).
- General Exchange Act of March 20, 1922 (42 Stat. 465, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 485-86).
- Donation Act of June 7, 1924 (43 Stat. 654; 16 U.S.C. 569).
- Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of September 3, 1964 (78 Stat. 903, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 4601-9). Provides funding only. This act does not provide acquisition authority.

APPENDIX

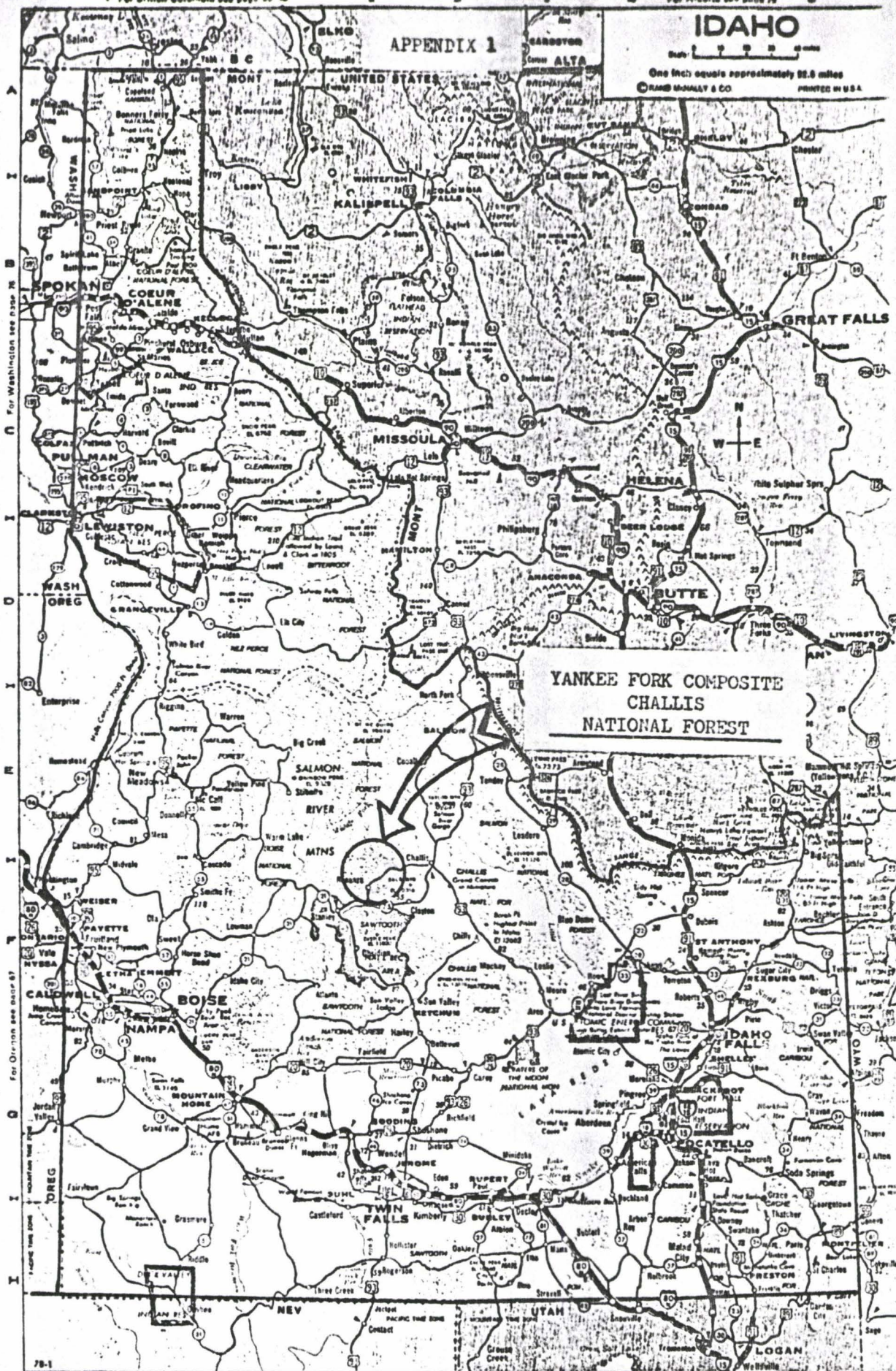
1. Map of Idaho showing location of composite.
2. National Recreation Resources in Idaho.
3. Small scale map of the Challis National Forest with composite.
4. Half inch to mile map of composite.
5. Two inch to mile detail map of private properties in T13N,R15E.
6. Two inch to mile detail map of private properties in T11N and T12N,R15E.
7. List of private lands and acreage.
8. Visual Quality Management map.
9. Bibliography

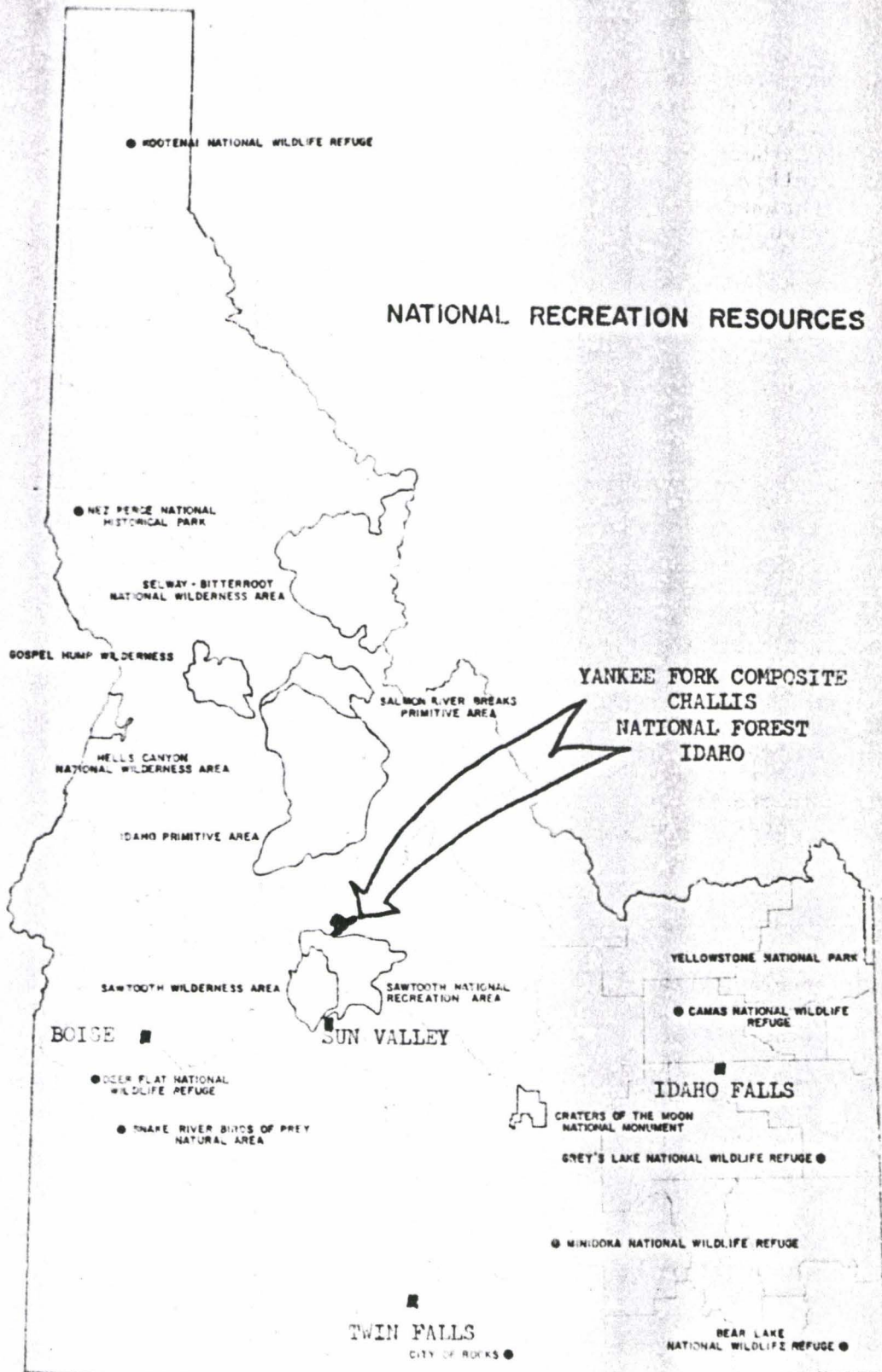
APPENDIX 1

STATES:

ne inch equals approximately 22.5 miles
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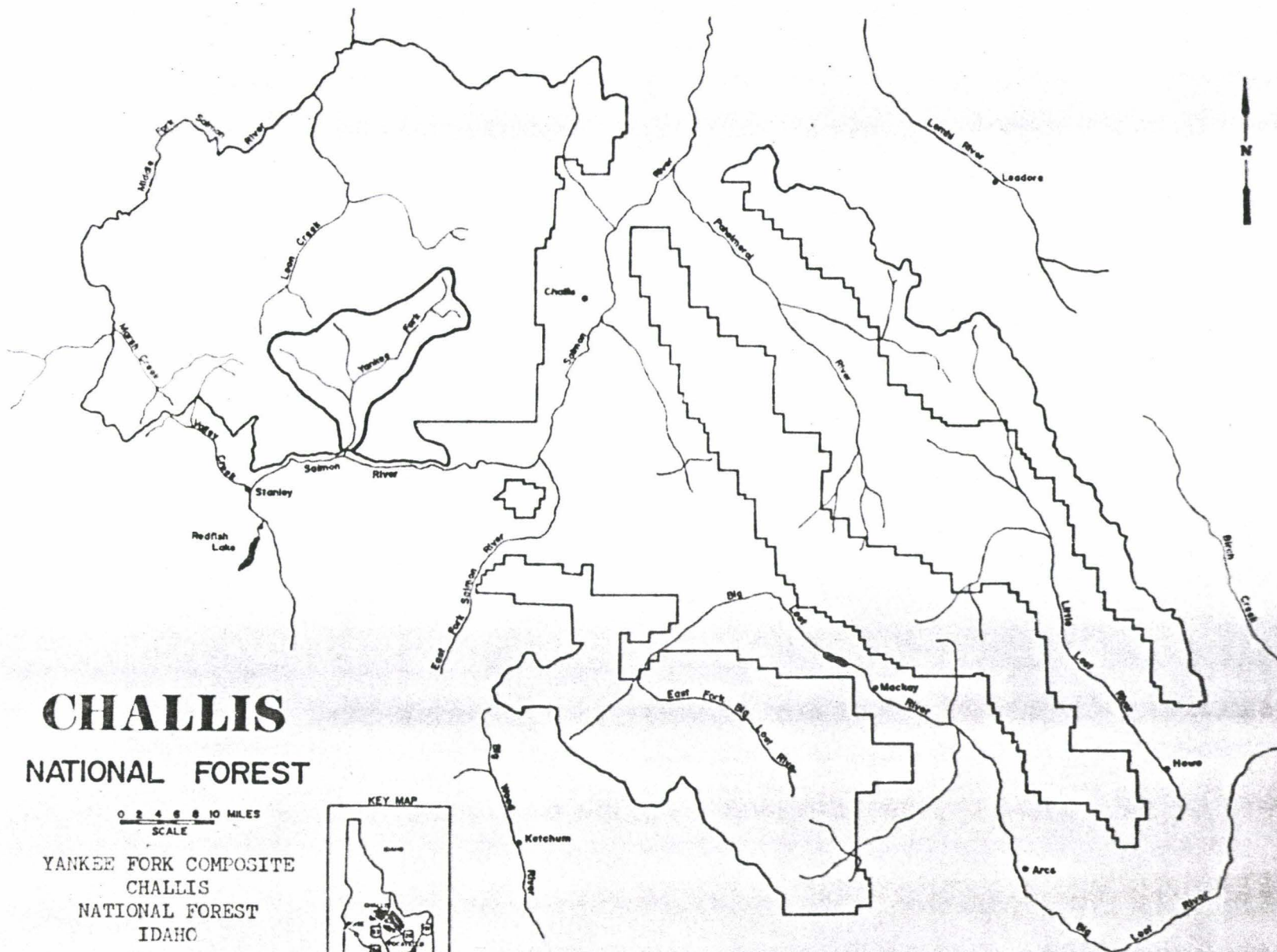
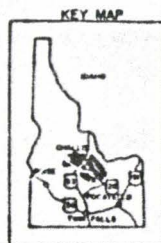


CHALLIS

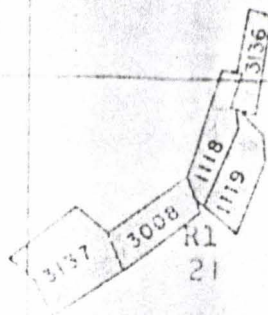
NATIONAL FOREST

0 2 4 6 8 10 MILES
SCALE

YANKEE FORK COMPOSITE
CHALLIS
NATIONAL FOREST
IDAHO



APPENDIX 5



R1
30
1639

R1

R1
28

R1
2

R1
2

YANKEE FORK COMPOSITE TRAILLIS NATIONAL FOREST

LEGEND



Lands to be purchased in fee.



National Forest lands.



Lands not to be acquired.



Scale: 2 inches = 1 mile.

Prepared January 27, 1981.

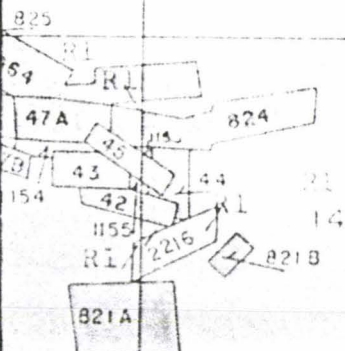
T13N, R15E B. M. Unsurveyed

R1
(629)

R1
(629)

R1
11

R1
12



R1
13

R1
23

R1
24

821A

R1
23

R1
24

R1
25

R1
26

YANKEE FORK COMPOSITE
CHAILLIS
NATIONAL FOREST

LEGEND

lands to be purchased in fee.

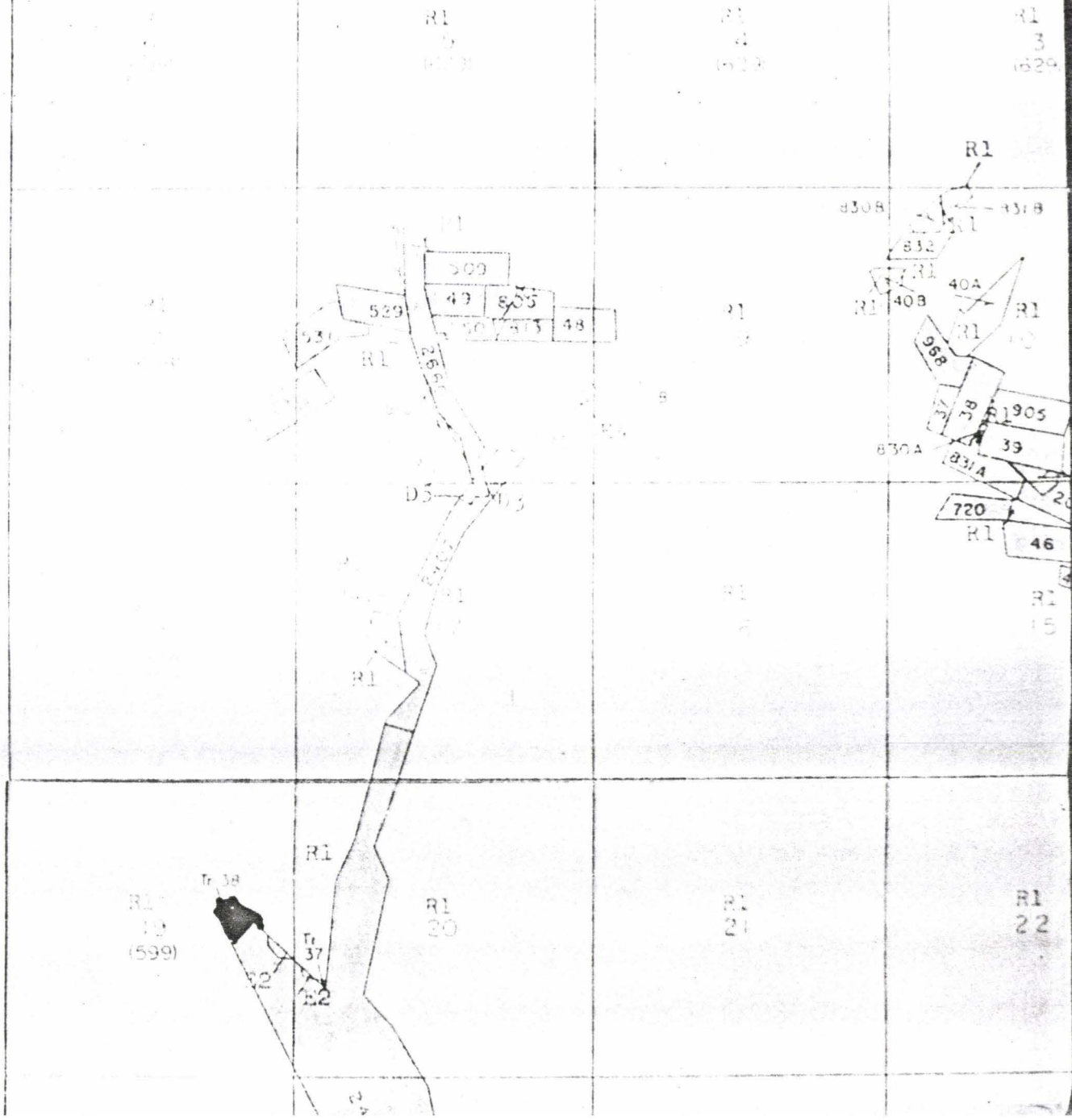
ational Forest lands.

lands not to be acquired.

1 = 1 mile.

prepared January 17, 1981.

APPENDIX 6





Appendix 7

List of Private Lands (From North to South)

<u>Mineral Survey No.</u>	<u>Claim Name</u>	<u>Acres</u>
<u>T13N, R15E</u>		
2910	Mulcahy Lode	15.126
2168	Exchequer Group Lode	88.304
2159	Not Patented as yet	0
3137	Gold Star & 1st Southwest Lode	33.580
3008	Montana Lode	17.789
1118	Fraction Lode	12.090
1119	Yankee Fork Lode	18.000
3136	Golden Gate Lode	11.192

(Note: The above claims are not shown on the half inch/mile map.)

T12N, R15E & T11N, R15E

509	Adelaide	20.610
49	Pilot	14.570
805	Chas Dickens	14.890
50	Henry Ward Beecher	10.631
813	Capulet Lode	9.380
48	Julietta Lode	15.128
529	George Washington	17.930
531	Fair Play	17.032
330	Passover	20.661
2660	Morrison Placer	27.680
2407	Speculator #1,2 & 3, Link	52.181
2406	Iowa, Highball, Idaho, Lark	509.394
832	Millsite Lode	10.980
968	Hillside	14.260
37	Whistler	6.080
38	General Custer	19.810
905	Fogus Tunnel	19.920
39	Unknown Quartz	20.140
831A	White Bird	17.800
825	Yankee	5.000
2064	Eureka Group	47.250
720	Delaware	13.180
46	Anna	19.383
47A	Lucky Boy Lode	17.047
824	Continental-Atlantic	37.680
45	Badgar	12.810
47B	Lucky Boy Millsite	4.991
43	Yellow Bird	11.003
44	American Girl	10.976
42	Little Giant	10.827
821A&B	Homestake	38.800

Mineral
Survey No.

Claim
Name

Acres

1155

Fraction (Badger)

0.710

1154

Fourth of July

20.571

2216

(Unpatented)

0

Total

1285.386

Less Lands not Proposed to Acquire

-10.000

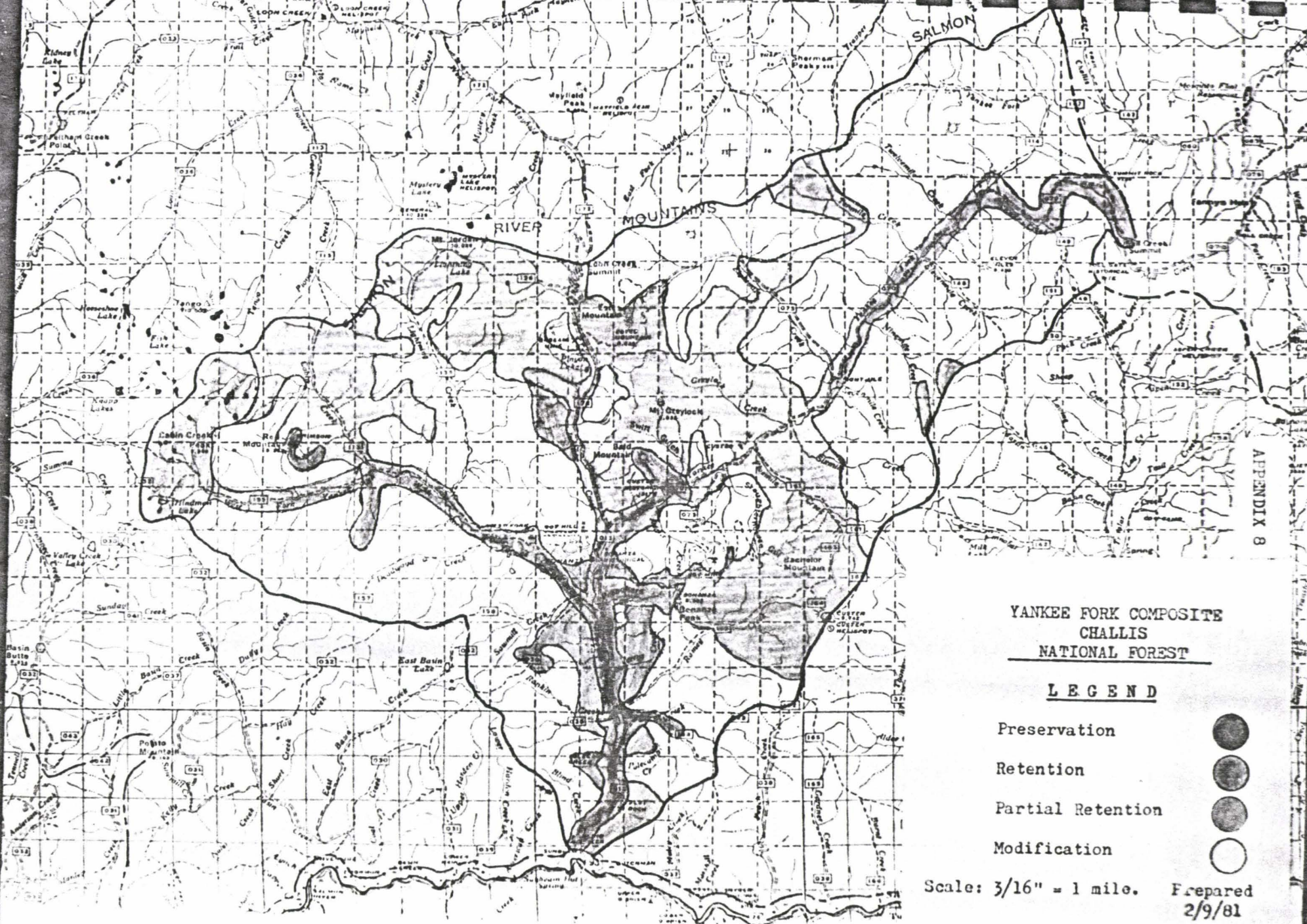
Less Donation, Exchanges

2.660

1272.726

Grand Total (Rounded)

1273



APPENDIX 8

YANKEE FORK COMPOSITE
CHALLIS
NATIONAL FOREST

LEGEND

Preservation

Retention

Partial Retention

Modification



Scale: 3/16" = 1 mile. Prepared 2/9/81

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 12. Bonanza Concept Plan, 1972.
 13. Dredge Parking Alternatives, 1973.
 14. Jordan Creek to Custer - Road Alternatives, 1973.
 15. Yankee Fork Interpretive Inventory, 1973.
 16. The Yankee Fork Concept Plan, 1975.
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